

# The IRC Gazette

DR-4724-HI



FEMA

Volume 1, Issue 15 January 22, 2024

## This Week in the IRC:

### Community Assistance RSF

Onboarded new Community Assistance Staff including Local government specialist, Land-use planning specialist, community development specialist and team liaison. Introductions to Maui County Long Range Planning division and State partners at Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

### Economic RSF

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)'s Emergency Forest Restoration Program will close on 01/25/24. FSA anticipates only one application and continues to meet with the potential applicant to offer support and answer questions prior to the deadline.

### Health and Social Services RSF

Public and Environmental Health Branch continues providing technical assistance to the HI DOH for the development of the public and environmental health areas of their Recovery Need Assessment. Disaster Behavioral Health/ASPR response efforts concluded. HSS RSF engaged with HI DOH to begin conversations on strategies to identify goals, resources, and process to guide recovery efforts.

### Infrastructure RSF

Met with Hawaiian Electric, the State, and DOE to discuss needs. CISA may be able to provide technical assistance with respect to security/resiliency needs. Kickoff meeting with the County on the wildfire evacuation modeling effort IWR will be doing using LIFESIM. IWR showed how the model worked and data needs were discussed. Anticipating a 90-day extension of the IS-RSF MA.

### Natural and Cultural Resources RSF

Held the Kick-off NCR Meeting on 01/18 with approximately 100 participants from Federal, HI State and Maui County agencies, Kaliko Storer, Lahaina Advisory Team and select local community members who are engaged in NCR efforts. Meeting participants were asked to sign up to work on nine different project teams. The meeting also featured brief report outs from officials working on NCR efforts. The meeting also featured brief report outs from officials working on NCR efforts.

## Who's Packing your Parachute?

"It is my pleasure to nominate Samantha Bishop (EPA Sustainability Advisor) for the person that has packed each member of the Infrastructure team's parachute during each of her all too short deployments.

Samantha's last day within the IRC on Maui is 01/25. Her time here illustrated to all of us on the team her commitment to moving the discussions of cesspool conversions forward. Through my discussions with her about this demonstrated to me, a mindset of remaining on a grass roots level, if projects we begin to earmark as generationally impactful, truly will be. It is rare to meet subject matter experts that enjoy educating and infusing those around them, with a blend of science and wonder. We will miss you, Sam."

-The Infrastructure Team DR 4724 Maui

If you would like to recognize someone who has packed your parachute, send info to [annie.sebastiani@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:annie.sebastiani@fema.dhs.gov).

### Cultural Protocol Task Force Advisor

CPTF hosted its biweekly CPTF call with our state and federal partners re economic development and employment opportunities for the Maui survivor community, highlighting the Maui Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant for the 26 call participants. Guest speakers from Maui Economic Opportunity, Non-Profit Holidays for Lahaina, and Napili Noho discussed the administration and impacts of their programs and services.

### Disability Integration Advisor

Identifying FEMA eligible/ineligible cases; identifying and removing barriers for their access to recovery programs. Challenge is FEMA denials due to several circumstances needing reconsideration and navigational guidance. Also, allied relationship with community partners for additional support and resources to assist IA and ARC for identified survivor unmet needs and for better outcomes in retrieving aid through FEMA programs.

### External Affairs Advisor

Produced talking points for Deputy FCO presentation on Jan. 23 All Hands meeting. Also produced talking points for F1 visit Feb. 8-10 and a news release on availability of crisis counseling for survivors



## **"Collaborative Cybersecurity Initiatives: Strengthening Maui's Infrastructure Resilience"**

The federal Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has been coordinating with USACE, USDOT, EPA and State and County partners, on many recovery operation projects. During a recent meeting between said state and federal partners, CISA discussed ways that the state and county could manage and reduce risks to Maui's cyber and physical infrastructure. CISA discussed possible enhanced resilience and security measures at Maui's main powerplant (shown in photos).



### **Philanthropic Advisor**

Planning for the 02/02 tour requested by the Hawaii Community Foundation for the Governor of the Federal Reserve Board.

### **Public Assistance Advisor**

Completed field site inspections for Lahainaluna High School (Department of Education). Completed Exploratory Calls and Recovery Scoping Meetings. NCS Time Extension was approved through 04/10/24.

### **USDA Advisor**

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) continues to engage with project sponsors and is finalizing the agreements for the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program. Once agreements are completed, program work may begin. The Maui County Soil & Water Conservation District is sponsoring the Upcountry EWP and Maui County Department of Public Works is sponsoring the Lahaina EWP. NRCS met with landowners in the Lahaina EWP area this week, and will meet with more next week, to discuss the proposed EWP work on their property. USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)'s Emergency Forest Restoration Program will close on 01/25. FSA anticipates only one application and continues to meet with the potential applicant to offer support and answer questions prior to the deadline.